App. F. IX-4

Previous References 1929-30 (P P

File No. 97/29

Serial No. 172

Later References

General and Revenue Secretariat.

Serial No. 9

Part B for May 1930

SUBJECT

Copy of book entitled "Indian States and British India" by Prof. Gurmukh Nihal Singh.

Pradeva
MAA
15/4/

Submitted to His Highness.

Professor Gurumukh Nihal Singh sent me a copy of a book written by him entitled "Indian States and British India", which I submit for His Highness's gracious inspection.

The description of Mysore contained in the book (pages 10 to 16) is so erroneous and distorted, and so misleading that I thought it necessary to send him a reply pointing out that he had done us very much less than justice, and enclosing a note correcting some of the misstatements.

A copy of the letter and its enclosure are submitted for gracious perusal.

Mirza M. Ismail

DEWAN.

Bangalore,
22nd April 1930.

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja.

Subject.

Copy of book entitled "Indian States and British India" by Professor Gurumukh Nihal Singh.

1481
22-4-30

478

Order.

KRW
26/4/30

C Sec/
M
1-5-30

Circulate
1/5

H.H. 481

C.S. 3940

Copy of book entitled "Indian States and British India" by Professor Gurmukh Nihal Singh.

(*)

31. All urgent or confidential files returned with His Highness' orders may in the absence of instructions or indications to the contrary, be ordinarily circulated to the Members of Council for perusal after the issue of orders.

33. The Secretaries concerned should see that orders in the cases referred to above are issued at once and that the files are returned immediately after to the Chief Secretary for circulation to the Members.

34. In all other cases, the files will first be circulated to the Members of Council at Headquarters and then sent to the Secretariat concerned for the issue of orders.

Circulated to Members of Council for perusal of His Highness' orders before/after issue of orders. (*Vide* Rules 31, 33 and 34 of the Subsidiary Rules for the conduct of business of Council in the Manual of Council Rules and Procedure.)

Chief Secretary to Government.

Through the Secretary to Government,

..... Department.

6675/T.J

FIRST MEMBER OF COUNCIL. 8/5/30

8339/6/5

SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL. 6/5

1877/35-1

THIRD MEMBER OF COUNCIL. 5/5/30

NOTE.—Contn. sheet.

pp 97-29-1

Benares Hindu University,

5th April.1930.

Dear Sir Mirza,

I had the pleasure of meeting you while you were here on your last visit and I hope you will be able to recall my name.

I am sending an advance copy of my book: "Indian States and British India: Their Future Relations". Kindly do me the honour of going through it and favour me with your opinion. I have described Mysore as a representative of the constitutionally advanced States and I hope you will extend to the book the patronage of the State.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Gurmukh N. Singh

COPY

Public Office, Bangalore,

22nd April 1930.

PP 97-29-2

Dear Mr. Nihal Singh,

I am much obliged for your letter of the 5th I have also received a copy of your book. The book, unfortunately, has done less than justice to Mysore, and contains some grievously erroneous statements, as you, I hope, will agree after seeing the accompanying note. It is impossible, therefore, for us to patronise a book which contains such misstatements. I hope you will forgive my writing so frankly to you, for I feel sure that if you only knew the truth you would be as sorry, as I am, to see such things said of a State, which, I can confidently assert, is at least as well governed as the best governed part of British India.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Mirza M. Ismail.

COPY

Statements in the book.

The Assembly consists of 200 members all of whom are non-officials, though there are some who are nominated to represent minorities and special interests.(page 13.)

N o t e s.

The total number of members of the Assembly is ordinarily 250, but Government have the power to increase the strength up to a maximum of 275 for removing inequalities of representation and to provide for representation of new interests or constituencies.

The total strength is made up in the following way:-

Not less than 150 are representatives of rural areas;

not less than 30 and not more than 50 are representatives of urban areas;

not less than 15 are representatives of special interests; and

not less than 35 are representatives of minorities.

Members representing rural and urban areas are elected. Representatives of special interests are elected by recognised constituencies and in the absence of such constituencies are nominated by Government. Representatives of minorities are elected by recognised associations or nominated, for the purpose of removing inequalities of representation.

Besides the Representative Assembly, there is a smaller Legislative Council consisting of from 40 to 50 members. (page 13.)

The Legislative Council consists of 50 members of whom not less than 60 per cent are non-officials and the rest official members nominated by Government. Not less than two-thirds of the non-official members are elected by the Mysore Representative Assembly and the urban, rural and special constituencies, the remainder being nominated by Government for the representation of special interests and minorities.

The Council exists for the purpose of making laws; curiously enough, this function has been omitted in the book.

"There is no freedom of press, of association or speech, and deportations, externments and forfeitures of property can be inflicted on any one without even the semblance of a judicial enquiry and by the executive fiat alone."

This is a statement which no responsible author should adopt without careful scrutiny and verification, and since the source of the quotation is not indicated, the book itself must accept sole responsibility. It is hardly necessary to say, this is a gross misstatement.

In Mysore, 81 newspapers and periodicals are being printed and published, dealing with a vast range of subjects - social, political, scientific, religious, etc.

Even a casual glance at their columns will show that they enjoy perfect liberty of expression. In addition to the above, newspapers and journals published outside Mysore enjoy free - and in some cases extensive - circulation. The State is well served with newspapers representing all shades of opinion. No paper is persecuted or prohibited on account of its opinion, and Government have always welcomed fair criticism. There is a Press Regulation under which permission of Government is necessary for starting newspapers. This was enacted at a time when a certain measure of control was necessary in the public interest. Permission asked for is usually given as a matter of course and the modification of the Regulation itself is under consideration.

To say that there is no freedom of association or of speech, is prima facie absurd, in speaking of a country which firmly believes in team work, and in which hundreds of associations, several enjoying considerable state patronage, exist for almost every department of activity.

To say that there is no freedom of speech is equally incorrect. The speeches reported in the proceedings of the Representative Assembly and

the Legislative Council are themselves sufficient to disprove the allegation, not to speak of the utterances which are freely made from public platforms, on all subjects of general interest.' There can perhaps be no more convincing proof of the large toleration of Government in such matters than that Mr.Hosakoppa Krishna Rao, who is quoted in the book later on, is himself a member of the Representative Assembly where the intervention of Government is occasionally necessary to secure him a hearing from more temperate members.

Mysore has adopted the Indian Penal Code as its criminal law, and law-breakers are no more immune from punishment here than they are anywhere else; but to say that "deportations, externments and forfeitures of property can be inflicted on any one without even the semblance of a judicial enquiry and by the executive fiat alone," is a falsehood - so gross and irresponsible that one wonders at the psychology of the utterer.

The power to deport a public enemy in circumstances of emergency is no doubt one of the powers inherent in internal sovereignty; but in Mysore, this power has seldom, if ever, been called into action.

"Taxation is very high and * * * but little energy." (page 15.)

The author has been peculiarly unfortunate in the authority he has quoted, in regard to the general conditions in Mysore, though it is almost a talent to compress so many misrepresentations in so short a space. It is not true that taxation is very high in Mysore. The incidence of taxation per head of population here is Rs.4-2-2 as against Rs.5-9-9 in British India. It is not true that revisions of land revenue assessments are "too frequent and are subject to no statutory limitation." In an essentially agricultural country like Mysore, land contributes substantially to the revenue of the State. The revenue system in Mysore is framed after the Bombay model and the period of each settlement is thirty years. There are detailed rules for the guidance of Settlement Officers which are contained in the Survey and Settlement Manual. According to the Land Revenue Code in force in Mysore, a revised assessment has to be fixed not with reference to improvements made from private capital and resources during the currency of a settlement, but only with reference to general considerations of the value of land whether as to soil or situation, prices of produce and facilities of communication. (Section 115, L.R.C.) Improvements effected

at considerable cost to Government which obviously enhance land values, e.g., great irrigation works like the Krishnarajasagara, will certainly be taken into consideration in fixing the revised assessment in the areas that benefit by them (Section 116, L.R.C.) Then again, the limits of absolute increase of assessment have also been fixed by Government. The increase of revenue in the case of a Taluk or group of villages should not exceed 33%. No increase exceeding 66% should be imposed on a single village without the circumstances of the case being specially reported for the orders of Government. And lastly, no increase exceeding 100% can be imposed on an individual holding . (The Mysore Revenue Manual, Part III, Rule 15.) The revision settlement of all the taluks in the State has been completed only recently and in the great majority of cases, even the very moderate limits prescribed above have not been so much as approached.

The Excise revenue in Mysore is going up by leaps and bounds.

It is not true that the Excise revenue is going up by leaps and bounds. As a matter of fact, there has been a noticeable decline in this item of revenue during the past few years. The total demand including arrears for 1925-26 was Rs.71,65,590 as against Rs.74,05,572 the year previous. In

1926-27, the demand further declined by Rs.1,78,218, due to decrease in the consumption of liquors. In 1927-28, the demand stood at Rs.68,84,276 only.

. "The indebtedness of the raiyats is appalling."

This is pure hyperbole. The Mysore raiyat is indebted to a certain extent,; he borrows money during the working season, and pays it back at harvest time; and except under specially unfavourable conditions, he is able to meet his engagements. There is more indebtedness in some parts of Mysore than in others; and Government have recently sanctioned a scheme of financing through the administrative departments by means of land improvement and takavi loans; but usually agriculturists have no difficulty in obtaining current finance from co-operative societies and other local sources. There is creditworthiness on the one side, and confidence on the other.

of land mortgages to meet the situation; there is also an efficient scheme

Land values are steadily going up; and the quality of holdings is being improved by good cultivation. Agricultural enterprise is certainly attended to; for, if the prosperity of the raiyat had not been the objective of Government, such costly enterprises as the Krishnarajasagara and the Vani Vilas Sagara would not have been undertaken. The Mysore State

has an Agricultural Department which is second to none in India; and Government have recently sanctioned 4 schemes of Adi Karnataka and Agricultural Colonies, which are probably without a parallel in any other province.

In 1925-26, the total grant for land improvement and takavi loans was Rs.1,39,000; in 1926-27, it stood at Rs.1,58,000 and in 1927-28 it was Rs.1,93,800. Loans for the sinking of irrigation wells are granted freely in such maidan dry districts as Tumkur, Chiltaldrug and Kolar.

There is a Labour Commissioner in Mysore whose business it is to look after the interests of labour. The Workmen's Compensation Regulation and the Factories' Regulation, with the Rules framed thereunder protect the legitimate rights and personal safety of employees. It may be rhetoric to talk of labourers' "claim to protection being ignored"; but it is also untruth, and mischievous untruth at that.

The concluding part of the quotation is a farrage of non-sense, which would hardly have merited notice had it not been gravely quoted in a book by a University Professor of Political Economics and Political Science.

The Mysore Service is undoubtedly second to none in the world, in ability, in character, and in devotion to the interests of the country.

One hardly sees the point of the quotation, when after making it the author of the book goes on to say "on the whole however, it appears to me that conditions in Mysore * * are not essentially different from those that prevail in British India."